

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM FOR M98030009

On 5 March 1998, an NSF program officer¹ brought an allegation of misconduct in science to OIG's attention. The complainant,² who had received the subject's³ NSF proposal⁴ to review, alleged that the subject's proposal contained some ideas⁵ taken from her previously funded NSF proposal.⁶ She said that she knew the subject had seen her proposal because he had sent her a copy of his *ad hoc* review. The subject's proposal, however, cited the source of the these ideas to another scientist that predated the complainant's work.⁷

OIG compared the ideas identified by the complainant in her funded NSF proposal and in the subject's proposal and found them to be similar. However, our review of the three books cited by the subject in his proposal as the source of these ideas showed that they contained these ideas.

OIG concluded that the ideas presented by the complainant in her proposal were not unique to her. The subject's citations to the other scientist's work appropriately acknowledged these similar ideas. There was no substance to the allegation that the subject plagiarized (intellectual theft) the complainant's ideas.

This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

cc: Staff Scientist, Attorney, AIG Oversight, IG

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Footnotes Redacted